

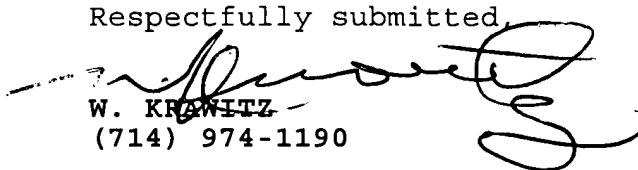
REMARKS:

The revision to claim 26 is submitted to accurately state that the impregnated fabric is applied to the coupling, rather than the yarn itself. In a brief discussion with W. Krawitz, the Patent Examiner, Ms. Archene A. Turner indicated the amendment appeared acceptable.

Respectfully submitted,

December 15, 2004

DATED

  
W. KRAWITZ  
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This will certify that this amendment, status of amended claims, clean copy of the claims and amendment transmittal letter were placed in an envelope with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450 and deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on December 15, 2004.

December 15, 2004

DATED

  
W. KRAWITZ